

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1769 without my signature.

Currently a specified group of peace officers are exempt from voir dire due to the public need of their critical public safety function. This bill would extend the exemption to yet another specified group, in this instance police and peace officers employed by a community college or school district. All peace officers perform critical public safety functions but not all are exempt. In addition, this bill could reduce the pool of potential jurors, thus creating a strain on the judicial system. The judicial system already has enough difficulty gathering potential jurors. In the event that an officer is unable to serve on a jury, current law already allows jury service exemption for undue hardship, which renders this bill unnecessary.

For these reasons I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger